



# NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Social Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

SACRAMENTO- The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) celebrates National Child Abuse Prevention Month 2016. Throughout the month of April, the Department's Office Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) will raise awareness about child abuse and neglect in an effort to help strengthen families and create strong communities.

This year's theme, "Community in Unity," is focused on empowering families and communities to work together to prevent child abuse and neglect.

"The trauma from abuse and neglect have lifelong effects on maltreated children," says CDSS Director Will Lightbourne. "We all play a role in helping to build communities and support families where children are safe, nourished and cherished."

Child Abuse Prevention Month raises consciousness of the benefits of a supportive nurturing community that promotes the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During the month of April and throughout the year, the Office of Child Abuse Prevention promotes activities which encourage communities to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities, and promote prevention.

The OCAP will host an awareness campaign at the State Capitol on April 21, 2016. The event will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (PST) on the North Side of the grounds and will include a pinwheel garden to raise public awareness of the risks of child abuse and neglect and to honor those who have been victims.

The OCAP will also be holding a donation drive for the State Children's Trust Fund on April 25 through 29. The State Children's Trust Fund was established for the specific purpose of supporting child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. Donations can be made to the State Children's Trust Fund year round on the CDSS website. To donate, visit: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ocap/PG4865.htm>

If you would like to help raise awareness and promote National Child Abuse Prevention Month in your community, you can use the tools and resources provided by the OCAP. To learn more, visit: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ocap/PG4741.htm>

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